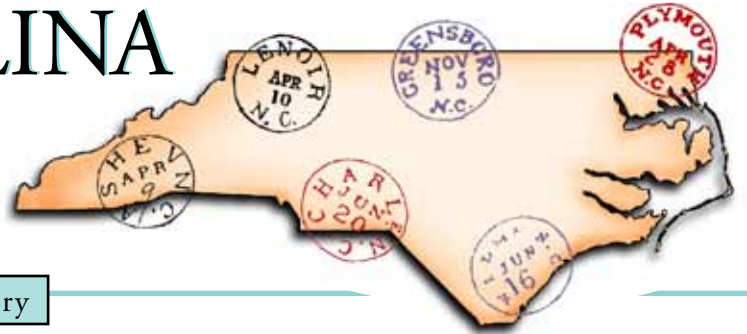


# NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN

The Journal of North Carolina Postal History

VOLUME 37, NO. 3 SUMMER 2018 WHOLE 143



## National Air Mail Week Revisited



## Semi-Official Envelopes from the Gubernatorial Election of 1864

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With this issue, we are again reminded of the quality and variety of articles presented in the *North Carolina Postal Historian*. The issue is dedicated to the National Air Mail Week on its 100th anniversary of the first airmail service. National Air Mail Week was one of the first attempts to market nationwide airmail service in the United States, which was a seminal event in our air mail history. It is another example of how the study of postal history showcases and expands our understanding of the significance of this event. The author, Tony Crumbley, has made this issue even more special by including an actual flown cover from that event which is tipped into the journal. This is very generous of Tony to donate flown covers for all recipients of this journal, and only the 3rd time that an actual cover has been placed in the *North Carolina Postal Historian*.

Also in this issue Maurice Bursey discusses the special envelopes that were printed and planned to be used in each of the North Carolina counties to report the results of the 1864 gubernatorial elections. The sheriffs of each county submitted the results of this election under their signatures on the envelopes. A strong sampling of these Confederate envelopes, which Maurice designates as "semi-official envelopes," is shown.

The readers are reminded that it is time for the venerable Charlotte postal show, Charpex, will be held on July 28-29 at the Central Piedmont Community Colleges. The show is always a very interesting one, and the collector never knows what

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treasures may be offered. Our society will have its annual general meeting at Charpex. During the general meeting, which will be at 1:00 pm, we will have a interesting presentation by Harvey Teal on the subject of the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad. This promises to be a very informative program. Members who can are encouraged to attend. The address is the Worrell Building on 1228 Elizabeth Street. For show details, visit [www.charpex.info/](http://www.charpex.info/). We hope to see you there and at the annual meeting. Following the general meeting, the society's Board of Directors will meet at 2:00 pm. The activities of the Board will be posted on our website after the meeting.

Just a few of our members are still delinquent in paying dues for 2018. If you are one, please renew your subscription to our journal by paying the 2018 dues of \$15. We don't want to lose you as members.

A red dot on your mailing label means we have not received your dues.



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# National Air Mail Week Revisited on the 100 Anniversary of the First Air Mail Service

by Tony L. Crumbley



On May 15, 1918, the first scheduled airplane service for mail delivery began on a route between Washington and New York. By the late 1930s, the Depression and other factors had caused a slow increase in the volume of air mail carried.

Historians credit Postmaster General James Farley and President Roosevelt for developing the idea of a marketing campaign to promote air mail. In the fall of 1937, Postmaster General Farley instructed Charlotte Postmaster Paul R. Younts to develop a North Carolina campaign. In a matter of months, Younts developed a strategy to fly air mail from any city in the state that wanted to participate. Younts declared October 11-16, 1937 as All North Carolina Air Mail Week. On the 12th of October, fifty-four North Carolina cities participated in this air mail feat. (See *North Carolina Postal Historian*, Vol. 16, No. 4, Winter 1997-98, Whole No. 63.)

Clearly, this had been quite a successful event for such a short turnaround time. It is not known if this was a test for what would occur a year later in 1938 or if it was a catalyst for that event.

We do know that early in the year 1938, Roosevelt and Farley decide to have a national air mail week campaign across the whole United States. Charlotte's Postmaster Paul Younts was again put in charge of this marketing campaign. Of interest, no funds were budgeted to support this event. Dates were set for

the week of May 15-21, 1938, to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the nation's air mail service.

President Roosevelt designed a new air mail stamp to be released on May 14, 1938. Figure 1 illustrates the hand drawing of the design that he gave to Postmaster General Farley. Though the colors were moved around and the legends flipped, this stamp design was the concept of President Roosevelt. Under his signature on the drawing is the Latin word, *fecit*, used to mean "he made it." Figure 2 illustrates the production stamps, a plate number block of four stamps from one of the panes. Shown in the selvage are the plate numbers for both the blue frame and red central subject, an eagle holding a shield, olive branch and arrows. The plates for this stamp produced 100 stamps in two panes of 50 stamps each, separated by a wide vertical gutter. The two colors, printed separately in red and blue on white paper resulted in dramatically beautiful stamps.

The Postmaster General challenged every city, town and hamlet in the country to develop a distinctive National Air Mail



**Figure 1.** ▲

President Roosevelt's original sketch of the new airmail stamp to be issued for National Airmail week. The President's instructions were "Red border – blue eagle- white background." The final version of the stamp reversed the color scheme and flipped the legend. (Courtesy of Smithsonian National Postal Museum)



▲ **Figure 2.** Plate number block of four stamps of the production stamp designed by President Roosevelt for use during National Air Mail Week. This stamp was a 1938 6¢ dark blue and carmine air mail stamp, flat plate printed.



Week (NAMW) cachet that told something about their community. Since postmasters at this time were politically appointed, there was a strong response. It is estimated that over 10,000 U.S. cities participated.

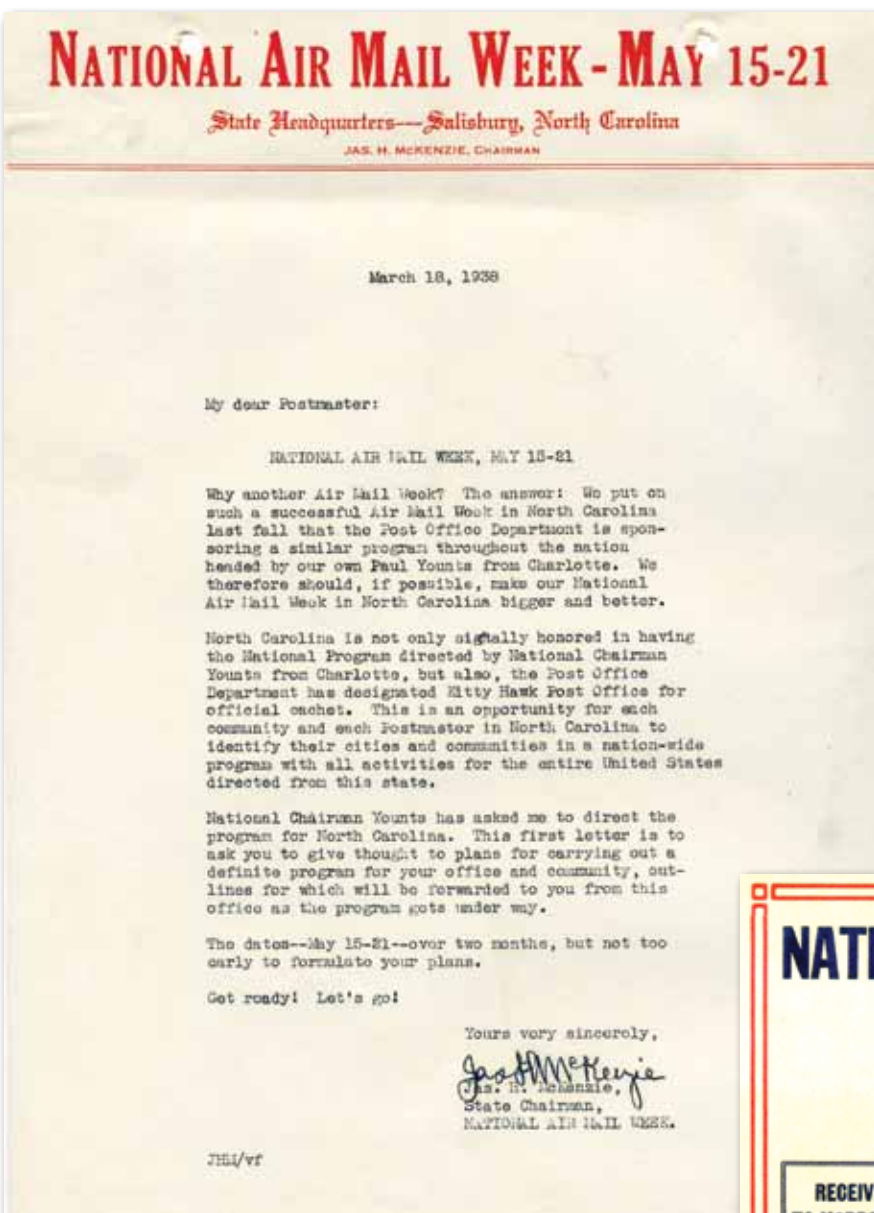
The author does not know the exact date that Younts received the order to develop a plan for this event; however, from Younts' own files, we know the first letter to go out to the North Carolina postmasters was dated March 18, 1938. Figure 3 is a copy of the letter sent to each of the North Carolina postmasters from Postmaster James H. McKenzie of Salisbury, NAMW Chairman for North Carolina. Each state

had a NAMW chairman to organize the event. In most cases, this was the postmaster of the largest city in the state.

The national campaign was more complex than the North Carolina campaign a year earlier. Not only was the task designed to have every person and every business in the nation receive an air mail letter, there was also to be a national poster contest promoting air mail and a national essay contest for students. Their topic was to be "Wings Across America."

The state chairmen were to organize the state postmasters and locate the pilots and planes within the state to carry the mail. Private aviators were sworn in as "one day only" air mail pilots. On the designated Thursday, May 19, 1938, weather permitting, these pilots landed their Cessnas, Wacos, and Stinsons, in farm fields and on dirt roads, golf courses and waterways, or any other landing place suitable to pick up the mail. Most of these cities had never had access to air mail service and most would never have it again.

To promote this event, two million posters were printed and distributed to every school and post office in the nation. Two million window stickers were printed and distributed, all of which had to be covered under existing post office budgets. Figure 4 is an example of one of the posters that was printed and distributed for the event. Other designs are known as well.



◀ **Figure 3.** March 18, 1938, letter from Salisbury Postmaster J. H. McKenzie, North Carolina State Chairman, kicking off the planning of NAMW in North Carolina. Postmasters had only two months to get ready for this event.

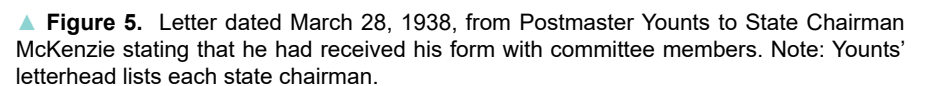


**Figure 4.** ▶

Special air mail week poster that was printed and distributed to post offices and schools nationwide to promote the weeks' activities.

On Thursday, May 19, over 1,700 special one-day-only flights occurred carrying specially prepared air mail covers. Of these flights, forty-three were made by women pilots. One special flight from Chicago via Mattoon, Illinois, to Charleston, Illinois, was made by Grover C. Nash, the first African American pilot to carry air mail. North Carolina had 23 of these special flights.

during the remainder of the week, any air mail letter properly paid the air mail rate, was sent on aircraft between regular air mail cities of the time. That is why so many NAMW covers from small towns with no air mail facilities show dates other than May 19th of NAMW.



We would like in the future to be able to send information to members using e-mail, but we lack valid e-mail addresses for many of our members. Please help by sending your e-mail address to Harry Albert, the Secretary-Treasurer at [harry.albert@eeco-net.com](mailto:harry.albert@eeco-net.com) or Tony Crumley at [tcrumley2@bellsouth.net](mailto:tcrumley2@bellsouth.net).



As mentioned, to enhance the NAMW events, the Post Office Department issued the new Roosevelt-designed stamp. The First Day of Issue ceremonies were held on Saturday, May 14, 1938, in Washington, D.C., Dayton, Ohio, and St. Petersburg, Florida. Figure 6 is an example of a First Day of Issue cover from Dayton, Ohio. The post office had distributed air mail envelopes to patrons. The offices opened Sunday, May 15th, to sell the new red, white, and blue air mail stamps that had been issued just the day before. Postmaster Younts placed an airplane in front of the Charlotte post office for the week of the event.

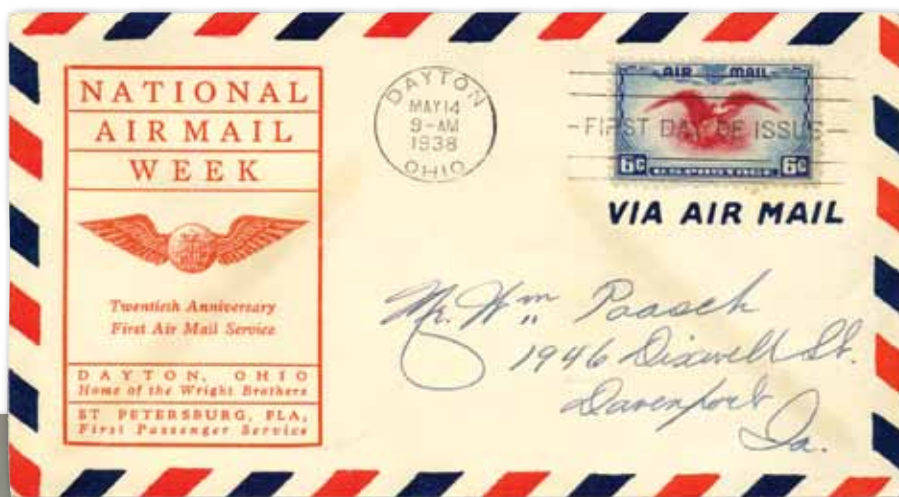
In reviewing the national literature on the NAMW, little can be found that mentions the National Chairman, Postmaster Paul R. Younts. President Roosevelt and Postmaster General Farley are credited mostly for the efforts. The American Air Mail Catalogue credited Charles P. Graddick, the Superintendent of Air Mail Service. The author could only find one mention of Younts as a key figure in this event. However, archives

confirm Younts was the architect behind the state and national event.

A little background on Postmaster Younts is necessary. He was born in Charlotte on January 11, 1899, educated in public schools, and entered preparatory school to be ready for higher studies. When the United States entered WWI, Younts volunteered for service in April 1917 and joined the National Guard. He was transferred to the eighth anti-aircraft battery which served in France with the French army until the war ended in late 1918. After returning home from France, he directed the 105th Engineers, Carolina National Guard, and stayed with the Guard. In the commercial world, he became active in the insurance and real estate markets. On June 13, 1934, Younts was appointed postmaster of Charlotte and served until February 9, 1941. Figure 7 is a photo of Postmaster Younts and Postmaster General Farley. The penned comments read "To Paul R. Younts with every good wish to a real fellow whom I respect and admire. James Farley." In 1941 Younts

**Figure 6.** ▶

May 14, 1938, First Day of Issue cover of the Roosevelt-designed new air mail stamp from Dayton, Ohio, addressed to Davenport, Iowa. The envelope is a Lin-print cachet for National Air Mail Week.



◀ **Figure 7.** Paul R. Younts served as postmaster of Charlotte from June 13, 1934 until February 9, 1941. This picture is of Postmaster Younts, Executive Chairman of the National Air Mail Week celebration (left), and Postmaster General James Farley (right). The picture caption reads: "To Paul R. Younts with every good wish to a real fellow whom I respect and admire. James Farley."



**Figure 8. ▲**  
1961 North Carolina Trade Fair stamp issued to promote trade in the state. The event was headed by Postmaster Younts.



**▲ Figure 9.** Postmaster General Farley standing with the 7350 National Air Mail Week covers that he received personally. The covers are now available at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, arranged by state including 123 covers from North Carolina towns.

re-entered the active military. He served in the Army Air Forces, first in the Pacific theater, and then moved in August 1944 to command the Overseas Replacement Depot in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he served until the war ended. Formally the O.R.D. had been known as the Basic Training Center No. 10, which opened in March 1943, later to become the largest military base within the official limits of any city in America. Younts is credited for processing over 100,000 men. He retained the rank of Colonel upon release from the army.

After military service, he returned to Charlotte and the real estate market. He helped build Charlotte's first shopping center and assembling land for Eastern Airline's Charlotte facility. Younts also served on the North Carolina Highway Commission. Upon his death a portion of Interstate 77 going through Charlotte was named for him. When one enters North Carolina from South Carolina on Interstate 77, the General Younts Expressway name is on a sign. In the author's research, there are no formal records of his promotion to General. He did offer to serve in the Korean War but could not arrange the assignment that he desired, and therefore resigned his commission.

As a youth, the author remembers visiting the 1961 North Carolina Trade Fair that was held at the Charlotte Coliseum on Independence Blvd. This was quite a large event that drew over 200,000 visitors to Charlotte. That event is remembered 56

years later, perhaps because of the local stamp that was issued to promote the Fair, illustrated in Figure 8. Younts was the Chairman of the committee that developed this event. Younts remained in Charlotte until his death in 1971.

In the past 80 years since the NAMW flights, several attempts have been made to catalogue the locations of North Carolina flights of May 19th. A web site, [www.aerodacious.com/](http://www.aerodacious.com/), has a NAMW index that lists only 16 North Carolina cities and towns. In 1991, the National Air Mail Week Historical Society published a listing of known cities and towns with flown covers; attributing 165 to North Carolina locations. This listing was updated in 2012 with 229 North Carolina listings, but a few didn't belong to North Carolina. In 2008 Postmaster General Farley's own covers were donated to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. These were covers that had been addressed to Postmaster General Farley. His total donation consisted of approximately 7,350 objects (mostly covers), organized by states and made available to the public. North Carolina's covers are in Binder 24 and total 123 items. As you will see later, there were far more than that flown in the state. The recorded number found in the listing at the end of this article is 225 post offices. Figure 9 is a photograph of Postmaster General Farley standing with the covers that he had received from the event.

In the author's holding is a scrapbook compiled by Postmaster J.H. McKenzie of Salisbury, the North Carolina NAMW

Chairman. This scrapbook was presented to Postmaster Younts after the event. Contained within the scrapbook are many of the official letters, flyers, documents, memos, and newspaper clippings of the event.

Also included in the scrapbook is a listing created by Postmaster McKenzie of cities and towns with cachets. This list contains 154 participating locations in North Carolina. Several of the places listed have not been recorded with covers and numerous others have covers recorded. To date, 225 North Carolina cities and towns are thought to have processed covers for this event.

McKenzie's records indicate on the day of the flight the state was split into eight zones and 23 flights were scheduled in these zones. The planes would fly to 80 different communities. A typical flight would connect approximately 5 smaller cities

and end in Raleigh, Charlotte, or Greensboro, where regular air mail service existed. Some of the western and Piedmont flights went to Salisbury and then were flown to Charlotte. That day, 28 different pilots were used to fly the mail. Many of the communities like Kings Mountain and West Jefferson, which serviced mail, have never seen flights again.

Each of the postmasters was given the option of developing their own cachet or using a cachet of national design that could be customized for their specific location. The vast majority of North Carolina postmasters chose to use the national cachets. On April 16, 1938, each postmaster was sent a form to order his/her handstamp cachet if needed. The cost was \$2.25 each. The slogan was to be no more than five words. Figures 10 and 11 are examples of this national design cachet used from Aberdeen and New London. These cachets were produced



◀ **Figure 10.** Aberdeen (Moore County) official rubber stamp cachet provided by the Post Office Department upon request of the Aberdeen postmaster with the motto "Hub of the Sandhills." Flown May 19, 1938, to Salisbury. Cachet is in violet color.



**Figure 11.** ▶ New London (Stanly County) official rubber stamp cachet provided by the Post Office Department upon request of their postmaster with the motto "In the Piedmont Gold Region." Flown May 19, 1938, to Salisbury. Cachet is in purple color.



from rubber stamps and came in purple, violet, red, blue, and black. The community mottos vary greatly. The data base that follows at the end of this article will provide the known mottos.

Of the cities that chose not to use the government-issued cachet, two of the communities made similar designs as the cachets used the previous year for the All North Carolina

flight. Figure 12 illustrates the Clinton cachet. The other city with a similar cachet was Hamlet. It is slightly larger and struck in purple. Of the locally designed cachets, twelve of them were printed. The others were produced by rubber stamps. The twelve post offices with printed cachets were Canton, Charlotte, Edenton, Greensboro, Highlands, Kannapolis, Morganton, Oteen, Raleigh, Roxboro, Tryon and Winston Salem. As seen

**Figure 12. ▶**

Clinton (Sampson County) produced a local-designed cachet using the concept of the All North Carolina flight from the previous year. Their motto was "Busiest Town in the World." Only Clinton and Hamlet chose this design approach.



**◀ Figure 13.** Charlotte (Mecklenburg County) chose a simple printed design promoting itself as the National Headquarters of NAMW. The same design was also used on a handstamp. Blue ink was used in both cases.



**Figure 14. ▶**

Raleigh (Wake County) on a May 19th flown cover to Charleston, South Carolina. This printed cachet was produced by Ross Shumaker, a noted, local cachet maker. He printed in six different colors and also handstamped in purple. Shumaker was an engineering and architecture professor at N.C. State.



in Figure 13, Charlotte chose a rather simple design promoting itself as the national headquarters of NAMW with a bold airplane in the design. The cachet comes both printed and handstamped. Both types are in blue ink.

Raleigh's cachet was produced by Ross Shumaker, a local professor at North Carolina State and noted cachet maker. The cachet came printed in green (Figure 14), red, brown, black, blue, purple, and also handstamped in purple). Raleigh clearly offered more variety with its cachet envelopes than any other North Carolina location.

The community of Tryon decided to promote the tranquility of the outdoors in the North Carolina Mountains. This legal size envelope (Figure 15) has a printed scene of horse riding, golf, camping, boating, fishing and much more. Though not liked by most collectors today for its size, it is by far one of the

best designed of all.

Five post offices used multiple colors in printing their cachets: Canton, Edenton, Morganton, Mount Airy, and Roxboro. Figure 16 shows the Edenton cachet printed in blue with a gold teapot promoting the 1774 Edenton Tea Party. Figure 17 from Mount Airy used both blue and red ink to produce a rather plain cachet. They promoted the world's largest granite quarry, which was located in the city. Figure 18 from Morganton was the state's only four-color cachet. Apparently, the city committee went a little beyond what was expected. Perhaps the four-color cachet cover was ordered from out of the state and did not arrive in time for the May 19th flight. The envelopes are not known used.

The Kannapolis postmaster must have relied upon its largest employer to produce their cachet (Figure 19). It promoted



▲ **Figure 15.** Tryon (Polk County) created one of the more unusual cachets. All known covers are legal size with an image of camping, horse riding, golf, boating, fishing, etc. in the mountain side town, promoting the tranquility of the outdoors.



**Figure 16.** ▶

Edenton (Chowan County) two color cachet in blue and gold, one of only five known multiple color cachets, celebrating the 1774 Edenton Tea Party, flown May 19, 1938, to Asheboro.





◀ **Figure 17.** Mount Airy (Surry County), another of the multiple color cachets from North Carolina. This is a rather bland use of blue and red ink to promote the city as the “Home of the World’s Largest Granite Quarry.”

**Figure 18.** ▶ Morganton (Burke County), the only North Carolina four-color cachet designed to promote the mimosa trees within the city. The envelopes are not known used, indicating they properly were not produced in time for the May 19th flight.



◀ **Figure 19.** Kannapolis’ (Cabarrus County) printed design most likely was produced by the town’s largest employer, Cannon Mills. It promoted air transportation and Cannon but it overlooked the NAMW. A rubber stamp was used at the bottom left to include this.

**Figure 20.** ▶ Salisbury (Rowan County) promotes the fact that it was the state’s headquarters for NAMW as well as the center of the industrial Piedmont. In 1938 it was about the size of Charlotte. The cachet was produced in both blue and purple.





Cannon Mills, the largest producer of towels and sheets. This was a well-designed cachet printed in blue, but somehow overlooked NAMW. At the bottom, a purple rubber stamp added “National Air Mail Week May 15-21.”

Of the other locally-designed cachets, clearly some are better designed than others. Most do focus on the importance of the community and tried to market it. Salisbury (Figure 20) chose to have a handstamp cachet that touted the fact it was the state headquarters for NAMW. It also added that it was the “Center of Industrial Piedmont.” Few people outside of North Carolina at that time would have known what the “Piedmont” was.

What the community of China Grove chose to promote is interesting. They wanted the world to know they were the first rural free delivery (RFD) route in North Carolina (1896) and the third in the United States. A cover sponsored by China Grove is illustrated in Figure 21. It was dated six days before NAMW began and was sent to Salisbury, 10 miles away in Rowan County.

Fort Bragg was promoting itself as the world’s largest field artillery reservation, even before its growth during WWII. The Fort Bragg cachet, shown in Figure 22 was a well-designed

cachet. This cover, posted from Fort Bragg, was sent to Roxboro (Bertie County) 110 miles away on the first day of NAMW.

The last cachet to be addressed is perhaps the most unusual (Figure 23). Winston Salem chose to place a cachet of a cigarette on its covers with the note that it was the world’s cigarette capital, which was a creative way to promote the industry for which the city was most known. The cover illustrated has both a printed and handstamped cachet.

Unlike most air mail first flights, records usually were not kept of the number of covers carried on each NAMW flight. Even the official flight from Kitty Hawk does not have an exact number flown. Except for a few of the larger cities, most of these covers are very scarce today. Newspaper articles of the event reported Kill Devil Hills loaded approximately 55,000 covers to Dayton, Ohio. Other towns reporting were Boone (834 pieces) and Maxton (224 pieces).

Of the nearly 10,000 different cities that posted air mail on May 19th, only one flight is considered official and listed in the American Air Mail Catalogue. Figure 24 illustrates the official cover of NAMW flight day from Kitty Hawk, May 19, 1938, the 20th anniversary of the inauguration of regular air mail



◀ **Figure 21.** China Grove (Rowan County) chose to promote that it was the first rural route in North Carolina and the third in the United States. Few would know today the meaning of a “rural route.” This cover was posted six days before NAMW began and was sent to Salisbury, 10 miles away.

**Figure 22 ▶** Fort Bragg (Cumberland County) had a purple handstamp cachet promoting Fort Bragg as the world’s largest field artillery reservation. The sender chose to use a 5 cent Naval Academy stamp on a two cent embossed envelope, thus overpaying air mail postage by one cent.



service. Mounted over this illustration is an actual cover of the event. This is perhaps the most common of all North Carolina air mail covers. Official records do not indicate how much mail was carried that day. The official flight from Kitty Hawk had two planes piloted by W. J. Griffith and John D. Driskill.

Following the article is a listing of 225 communities from which covers are known or from which records indicate covers were to be flown. Numerous sources have been used to develop this list as well as the author's own collection. Several columns of data included here show previously unreported

data that came from Younts' records. The column headed Airplane Landed indicates a plane was scheduled to land at this community. The McKenzie list column indicates that on Postmaster McKenzie's official memo to Postmaster Younts, these cities were to have cachets. The Pilot column is also previously unrecorded data coming from the Younts' scrapbook.

The author would appreciate knowing of any covers or dates posted that are not included on this listing. ■

**Figure 23** ▶

Winston Salem (Forsyth County). What better way to promote the world cigarette capital than by using an image of a cigarette as the cachet. All recorded examples of this cachet have been in purple ink. This locally used envelope show both printed and handstamped cachets.



▲ **Figure 24.** Official cover of NAMW flight day from Kitty Hawk, May 19, 1938, the 20th anniversary of the inauguration of regular air mail service. Pilots W. J. Griffith and John D. Driskill carried approximately 55,000 covers from Kitty Hawk in two planes. This is the only cover considered official for the NAMW flights by the American Air Mail Catalog.

## Survey of Known North Carolina National Air Mail Week (NAMW) Cachets

City	County	Air-plane landed	McKenzie List	May 15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Cachet phrase	Pilot	Airport flown to
Aberdeen	Moore		X					X			The Hub Of the Sandhills		
Ahoskie	Hertford	X										R.E Lee	Raleigh
Alamance	Alamance									X	No Cachet		
Albemarle	Stanly	X										Robert L McKee	Charlotte
Altamahaw	Alamance							X			NAMW		
Arden	Buncombe		X					X			Go Forward with Airmail		
Asheboro	Randolph	X	X					X			Center of North Carolina	L.C. Johnson	Greensboro
Asheville	Buncombe	X	X					X	X		Eastern Gateway to Great Smoky Mountains	R.L. Mooney	
Aurora	Beaufort		X					X			Garden Spot of North Carolina		
Azalea	Buncombe								X				
Bandana	Catawba		X				X			X	The Village of Friendly Philatelist		
Barium Springs	Iredell		X					X	X		Village of Youth		
Battleboro	Nash		X					X			Quality Not Quantity		
Bayboro	Pamlico									X	No Cachet		
Benham	Stokes		X					X			Watch Benham Grow		
Black Creek	Wilson										No Cachet		
Black Mountain	Buncombe	X	X			X		X			The Key City	Mark Reed	Charlotte
Boone	Ashe	X	X					X			Heart of the Blue Ridge	John W Terrell	Charlotte
Buladean	Mitchell		X										
Burgaw	Pender	X										Heorge W Carr Jr.	Raleigh
Burlington	Alamance	X	X	X	X			X			We Sox The World	Holt Fiddle	Greensboro
Burnsville	Yancey		X					X			The Gem City of the Mountains		
Buxton	Halifax									X	Air mail		
Canton	Haywood		X				X	X			Industry & Recreation		
Cartawba	Catawba	X								X	Catawba County	Al Jones	Charlotte
Carthage	Moore	X										James Smith	Raleigh
Central Falls	Randolph		X					X			Noted for its Rayon		
Chapel Hill	Orange	X	X					X			Heart of NC	Clarence Pickel	Raleigh
Charlotte	Mecklen-burg	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	Charlotte Cachet		
Charlotte-North	Mecklen-burg							X			Charlotte Cachet		
Charlotte- Transit Office	Mecklen-burg							X			National Headquarters		
Cherryville	Gaston		X					X			High in the Piedmont		
China Grove	Rowan							X		X	First Rural Route in NC Third in US		
Clinton	Sampson	X	X					X			Busiest Town in the World	George W. Carr Jr	Raleigh
Columbia	Tyrrell		X					X			Great Hospitality		
Concord	Cabarrus	X	X			X				X	Cabarrus County NC You will Like Concord a Good Place to Live	Dwight Cross	Charlotte
Conover	Catawba	X									No Cachet	Al Jones	Charlotte
Cornelius	Mecklen-burg		X					X			The Oldest Insurance Town		
Cricket	Wilkes									X	No Cachet		
Cumnock	Lee									X	No Cachet		



City	County	Air-plane landed	McKensie List	May 15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Cachet phrase	Pilot	Airport flown to
Dallas	Gaston		X	X	X						Old Home Town Named for George M Dallas		
Davidson	Mecklenburg		X			X	X	X	X		A Good College in a Good Town		
Deep Gap	Watauga							X		X	NAMW		
Draper	Rockingham							X			The Blanket City		
Dunn	Harnett	X	X					X			Carolina's Progressive Agricultural Center	L.R. Ash	Raleigh
Durham	Durham	X	X			X		X			City of Industry & Education	Clarence Pickel	Raleigh
East Spencer	Rowan		X			X		X			Home of Brick and Ice		
Edenton	Chowan							X			Edenton Tea Party		
Elizabeth City	Pasquotank	X	X					X			Costal Park Gateway	Dr. William Parker	Raleigh
Elkin	Surry	X									No Cachet	L.S.McGinnis	
Elm City	Wilson		X					X			Home Even to Strangers		
Elon College	Alamance		X					X			Guidance,Religion, Friendship, Training Education		
Enka	Buncombe		X					X			The Mountain Town of Rayon		
Erlander	Davidson									X	No Cachet		
Erwin	Harnett										First Air Mail Flight		
Eure	Gates									X	No Cachet		
Fair Bluff	Columbus		X					X	X		On the River Beautiful		
Faith	Rowan	X	X					X			Heart of NC's Granite	Robert L McKee	Charlotte
Farmville	Pitt	X						X			Mailed on First Airmail Plane from Farmville	J.D. Winstead	Raleigh
Flecher	Buncombe		X							X	NAMW		
Forest City	Rutherford		X					X			1 of 10 Most Beautiful		
Fort Bragg	Cumberland	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	World's Largest Field Artillery Reservation	L.R. Ash	Raleigh
Franklin	Macon		X					X		X	Scenic Center of Southern Appalachians		
Franklinton	Franklin		X					X			Quality Town of Equality Folk		
Freeland	Brunswick		X								No Cachet		
Garner	Wake									X	No Cachet		
Gastonia	Gaston	X			X						NAMW	Dwight Cross	Charlotte
Gatesville	Gates		X					X			Famous Gates Country Cured Hams		
Gold Hill	Rowan			X	X	X	X	X			Richest Gold Mine in North Carolina		
Goldsboro	Wayne	X										J.D. Winstead	Raleigh
Graham	Alamance							X			Center of a Well Balanced County		
Granite Falls	Caldwell		X					X			Home of Granite Cordagen Largest in the World		
Granite Quarry	Rowan	X	X					X			Carolinas Granite Center	Robert L. McKee	Charlotte
Greensboro	Guilford	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	Battle of Guilford CH		
Greenville	Pitt	X										J.D.Winstead	Raleigh
Grifton	Pitt		X					X			The Friendly little Town		
Hamlet	Richmond		X	X	X			X		X	The Health City		

City	County	Air-plane Landed	McKenzie List	May 15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Cachet phrase	Pilot	Airport flown to
Hampstead	Pender									X	No Cachet		
Harmony	Iredell									X	No Cachet		
Hemp	Moore		X				X	X		X	Still Growing		
Henderson	Vance		X					X			Gateway to the Carolina's		
Hendersonville	Henderson	X	X					X			Gem City of Blue Ridge	Oscar Moyer	Charlotte
Henrico	Northampton		X			X					Where Agriculture Pays		
Hickory	Catawba	X	X				X	X	X		Best Balanced Town	Al Jones	Charlotte
High Point	Guilford		X				X		X		Furniture Capitol		
Highlands	Macon		X				X	X			Bridal Vail Falls		
Hilton	New Hanover							X			Watch Air Mail Grow		
Hudson	Caldwell		X					X			Spinners of Quality Yarns		
Huntersville	Mecklenburg	X	X					X			Town of Opportunity	Dwight Cross	Charlotte
Icard	Burke									X	Icard, North Carolina		
Ingalls	Avery		X								In the Land of the Sky		
Jacksonville	Onslow		X							X			
Kannapolis	Cabarrus	X	X					X	X	X	Where the World Gets its Towels & Sheets	Dwight Cross	Charlotte
Kellys	Bladen		X										
Kenly	Johnston		X					X			The Only Kenly in America		
Kill Devil Hill	Dare		X					X		X	Birthplace of Aviation		
Kings Mountain	Cleveland	X	X	X	X			X	X		Gateway to Kings Mountain	Dwight Cross	Charlotte
Kinston	Lenoir	X	X			X		X			World's Foremost Tobacco Center	Walter Tharrington	Raleigh
Kittrell	Granville		X								The South's First Winter Resort		
Kitty Hawk	Dare		X	X	X			X		X	F.N.A.M.W.		
Lagoon	Bladen		X					X			No Cachet		
Landis	Rowan						X				N.A.M.W.		
Lawndale	Cleveland								X		Shelby Cacher		
Laxon	Watauga		X					X			Air Mail Flight From Watauga County NC		
Leaksville	Rockingham		X					X			Land of Eden		
Leicester	Buncombe		X					X		X	Friendly Farmers		
Lenoir	Caldwell	X	X					X			Furniture Manufacturing Center of the South	John W. Terrell	Charlotte
Lexington	Davidson	X	X				X		X		Lexington Leads	Robert L McKee	Charlotte
Lincolnton	Lincoln	X	X					X			Lincoln Lithia Water	Dwight Cross	Charlotte
Linville	Avery		X					X			Grandfather Mountain		
Littleton	Halifax		X					X			Airway to Health Panacea Springs		
Longhurst	Person										No Cachet		
Lumberton	Robeson	X	X								Fastest Growing Big Tobacco Market	Horace Barnes	Raleigh
Madison	Rockingham	X	X					X			The Balanced City	Ray Peeler	Charlotte
Maiden	Catawba	X										Al Jones	Charlotte
Manchester	Cumberland		X					X			From Pony Express to Wings		

City	County	Air-plane landed	McKenzie	May 15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Cachet phrase	Pilot	Airport flown to
Manteo	Dare		X					X			Birth place of the Nation		
Marion	McDowell	X										Fred Slane	Charlotte
Marshall	Madison										More Business Than a Town of its Population		
Maxton	Robeson	X	X					X			All Weather Airport	Horace Barnes	Raleigh
Mebane	Alamance		X					X			Furniture Bedding Hosiery Yarn		
Milton	Craven		X					X			On the Map since 1796		
Minneapolis	Avery		X				X				A Heaven in the Hills		
Mocksville	Davie		X					X			Help Preserve Wild Game		
Monroe	Union	X	X				X	X			The City of Homes	Henry S. Adams	Charlotte
Mooreville	Iredell		X						X		Home of Moor Turkish Towels		
Morehead City	Carteret	X						X			No Cachet	Walter Tharrington	Raleigh
Morganton	Burke	X	X					X			The Mimosa City	Fred Slane	Charlotte
Morven	Anson							X			No Cachet		
Mount Airy	Edgecombe	X	X					X			Home of Worlds Largest Granite Quarry	L.S. McGinnis	Charlotte
Mount Gilead	Montgomery		X					X			Build Your House with Brick		
Mount Olive	Wayne		X					X			North Carolina's Largest Vegetable Market		
Mount Pleasant	Cabarrus		X					X			The Big Little City		
Nantahala	Swain									X	No Cachet		
New Bern	Craven	X	X				X	X			Land of Enchanting Waters	Walter Tharrington	Raleigh
New London	Stanly		X			X		X			In The Piedmont Gold Region		
Newell	Mecklenburg		X					X	X		A Neighborly Village		
Newton	Catawba	X										Al Jones	Charlotte
Newton Grove	Sampson		X					X			Watch Air Mail Grow		
North Wilkesboro	Wilkes		X					X			Key to the Blue Ridge	John W. Terrell	Charlotte
Norwood	Stanly							X			No Cachet		
Ocracoke	Carteret		X			X		X			Nature's Beauty Spot		
Oteen	Buncombe		X	X	X		X	X			New Health and Happiness		
Overhill	Harnett		X					X			Land of the Long Leaf Pine		
Oxford	Granville	X										Clarence Pickrel	Raleigh
Pinehurst	Moore	X	X					X			Famous Winter Resort	James Smith	Raleigh
Pineville	Mecklenburg		X			X		X			We are Air Mail Minded		
Pinnacle	Stokes		X					X			National Air Mail Week May 15-21		
Plymouth	Washington	X	X					X	X		Real Industrial & Agriculture	Thomas Crawford	Raleigh
Portsmouth	Carteret		X			X					Watch Air Mail Grow		
Raleigh	Wake	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Raleigh North Carolina NAMW	R.E.Lee	Raleigh
Randleman	Randolph		X					X			The Town of Friendly Folk		
Ransomville	Beaufort		X					X			Time is Lost Save with Air Mail		
Reidsville	Rockingham	X										Ray Peeler	Charlotte
Ridgecrest	Buncombe		X				X	X			Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly		



City	County	Air-plane landed	McKenzie List	May 15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Cachet phrase	Pilot	Airport flown to
Roanoke Rapids	Halifax	X	X			X		X		X	Where Industry and Agriculture Meet	R.E. Lee	Raleigh
Rockingham	Richmond	X	X					X			The Best Town of All	James Smith	Raleigh
Rockwell	Rowan	X	X					X		X	The Source of Prosperity		
Roduco	Gates									X	No Cachet		
Rocky Mount	Edgecombe	X	X				X	X			The Air Minded City	R.E.Lee	Raleigh
Roper	Washington							X			Roper NC		
Roseboro	Sampson		X				X	X			The Biggest Little Town in NC		
Rosehill	Duplin		X					X			Town of Friendly Neighbors		
Rosman	Transylvania	X	X				X	X			Come Visit Beautiful Sylvan Valley	Floyd Brown	Charlotte
Roxboro	Person	X						X			Birth Place of Dolly Madison	Clarence Pickel	Raleigh
Salisbury	Rowan	X	X					X	X		Center of Industrial Piedmont, State Headquarters	Robert L McKee	Charlotte
Saluda	Polk		X				X	X			Breathe Our Pure Ozone		
Sanford	Lee	X	X					X			Sanford in the Heart of NC	Elmer Myers	Raleigh
Scotland Neck	Halifax		X					X			Supplies All Needs		
Selma	Johnston	X						X			No Cachet	J.D. Winstead	Raleigh
Seven Springs	Wayne									X	No Cachet		
Shelby	Cleveland		X							X	The Home of Governors		
Shulls Mills	Watauga							X			Boone NC Cachet		
Smithfield	Johnston										No Cachet		
Southern Pines	Moore	X						X			Air Mail Week	James Smith	Raleigh
Sparta	Alleghany		X					X			Where the Mountain Breeze Blows		
Spencer	Rowan		X					X			Friendship and Cooperation		
Spindale	Rutherford	X						X			Typed notation about first flight	Dwight Cross	Charlotte
Spray	Rockingham							X			Carbide Discovered		
Spring Hope	Nash		X					X			The Agriculture Center		
Spruce Pines	Mitchell			X		X					Climate for Health		
Staley	Randolph		X					X			Stay in Staley		
Statesville	Iredell	X	X					X			Best Town in North Carolina	Fred Slane	Charlotte
Stiles	Macon		X								No Cachet		
Stokedale	Guilford	X										L.C.Johnson	Greensboro
Stoneville	Rockingham				X						World's Cigarette Capitol		
Sugar Grove	Watauga		X					X			Haven of the Hills		
Summerfield	Guilford									X	No Cachet		
Sunbury	Gates		X					X			United We Prosper		
Swannanoa	Buncombe		X					X			In the land of the Sky		
Swanquarter	Hyde							X			Sportsman's Paradise		
Sylva	Jackson	X										Paul McMurry	Charlotte
Tabor City	Columbus							X			No Cachet		
Tarboro	Edgecombe	X	X					X			City of Opportunity	R.E.Lee	Raleigh
Taylorsville	Alexander	X	X					X		X	Breezes Blow and Apples Grow	John W. Terrell	Charlotte

City	County	Air-plane landed	McKenzie List	May 15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Cachet phrase	Pilot	Airport flown to
Terrell	Catawba							X			Catawba City Cachet		
Thomasville	Davidson		X					X			Seat/Diversified Industry		
Troutman	Iredell							X			No Cachet		
Troy	Montgomery		X					X			Textile Rugs Lumber Furniture Gold		
Tryon	Polk		X				X	X		X	Rest and Recreation		
Valdese	Burke	X						X			N A M W First Air Mail	Al Jones	Charlotte
Valle Crucis	Watauga		X					X			Beauty Spot/Mountains		
Wadesboro	Anson	X	X			X		X			The Air Mail Chief	James Smith	Raleigh
Wake Forest	Wake								X		Air Mail Week		
Wallace	Duplin	X						X			Largest Strawberry Market in the World	George W. Carr Jr	Raleigh
Walnut Cove	Stokes		X					X			Gateway to Hanging Rock Park		
Warrenton	Warren	X						X			Carolina's Biggest Little City	R.E.Lee	Raleigh
Washington	Beaufort	X	X					X			The Original Washington	Thomas W Green	Raleigh
Waxhaw	Union		X					X			Birthplace of Andrew Jackson		
Waynesville	Haywood	X						X			Entrance to Great Smokey	Paul McMurry	Charlotte
Weaverville	Buncombe		X					X			Good Place for Your Home		
Weldon	Halifax		X					X			Eastern Carolina's Gateway		
West Jefferson	Ashe	X										John W. Terrell	Charlotte
Whitakers	Edgecombe		X					X			Best Farming Section in Carolina		
Whiteville	Columbus	X						X			Tobacco and Strawberry Center	Horace Barnes	Raleigh
Whittier	Swain							X			No Cachet		
Williamston	Martin	X										Thomas Crawford	Raleigh
Wilmington	New Hanover	X	X	X	X			X			Major Port & Resort City	James Smith	Raleigh
Wilson	Wilson	X	X					X			Tobacco Exposition & Festival	J.D. Winstead	Raleigh
Winston Salem	Forsyth	X	X					X	X		World's Cigarette Capitol	L.S. McGinnis	Charlotte
Winton	Hertford		X					X			A Friendly Town		
Wolf Mountain	Jackson		X					X			No Cachet		
Worry	Burke							X			Morganton NC Cachet		
Yadkinville	Yadkin	X										L.S. McGinnis	
Zebulon	Wake		X					X			Serving Four Counties		

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## Some Semi-Official Return Envelopes from the Gubernatorial Election of 1864

by Maurice Bursey



The North Carolina gubernatorial election of 1864 was a choice between the very popular Conservative Party<sup>1</sup> incumbent, Zebulon Baird Vance (1830 – 1894, Figure 1), and his opponent from the Confederate Party,<sup>2</sup> William Woods Holden (1818 – 1892, Figure 2), the reformist publisher of the *Raleigh Standard*, who had reluctantly accepted the nomination only after he could not persuade any other prominent politician to enter the race. The race was bitter, and the pivotal issue was peace.

After election twice to the United States Congress and refusing requests to stand for the Confederate Congress, Vance

**Figure 1.** ▶

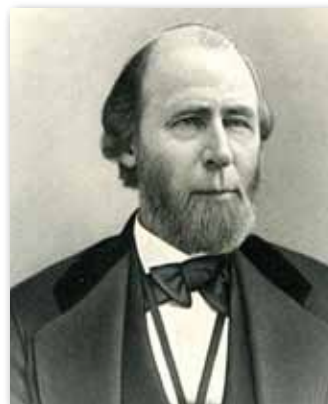
Zebulon B. Vance, the incumbent governor of North Carolina in 1864 and later U.S. senator.



organized the “Rough and Ready Guards,” which became part of the Fourteenth North Carolina Regiment. In August 1861, Vance was elected colonel of the Twenty-Sixth North Carolina Regiment, which he led ably at New Bern in March 1862 and the Seven Days’ battles before Richmond a short time later. He was elected Governor in 1862, ousting the incumbent in an election whose outcome expressed voters’ dissatisfaction with state and Confederate leaders. (Recall that by then the Union Army was occupying a large part of coastal North Carolina.) For the next two years Vance took up opposition to policies made in Richmond: Confederate conscription and impressment of property, the suspension of *habeas corpus*, discrimination against North Carolinians in the appointment and promotion of commissioned officers, the use of Virginia officers in North Carolina, state ownership of blockade runners, and North Carolina’s efforts to clothe its troops in the Confederate Army – all were issues where Vance was seen as protecting the rights of North Carolinians against the overreaching central government in Richmond.

Holden, on the other hand, was the leader of the state’s “peace movement,” which had been gathering strength in 1863 and early 1864. Holden had been the publisher and editor of the *Raleigh North Carolina Standard* for more than twenty years, and built the paper into the dominant voice of the Democratic Party in the state. He saw the futility of the war and declared that it was far better to make an honorable peace while that was still possible, rather than being forced to accept unconditional surrender. He thought that the time had come to overthrow agrarian aristocratic rule and to create a progressive state for the welfare of the common citizen. This position was, of

◀ **Figure 2.** William W. Holden, the challenger in the North Carolina gubernatorial election in 1864, later governor, and still later postmaster of Raleigh.



course, anathema to powerful political forces in the state.

After the Civil War, Holden sensed the impending disaster of control by forces in the United States Congress and chose to ally himself with new political forces. President Andrew Johnson appointed him governor of North Carolina in late April 1865, although he was defeated in an election later that year by Jonathan Worth, a much respected Democrat. In turn he defeated Worth in 1868 and resumed his role as governor. His term in office was overloaded with problems. In March 1870, after the assassination of a state senator, lynching of an African-American police officer, and the rise of the Ku Klux Klan to fearsome proportions, he declared Caswell and Alamance Counties to be in a state of insurrection and sent in troops to restore order. The first troops were under the command of William J. Clarke. Soon thereafter he sent more troops under the command of George W. Kirk, a Unionist who was widely despised for his terrorist raids in the western part of the state during the war. Thus began the “Kirk–Holden War.” Because of the troops’ behavior during occupation in the two counties and because of his call for the arrest of the editor of the *Raleigh Sentinel*, Holden’s political enemies called for his impeachment. His trial began in January 1871; he was convicted by the Senate in a party-line vote and removed from office on March 22, 1871, the first American governor to be impeached, tried, and removed; his major crime having been

<sup>1</sup> During the Civil War, members of the former Whig Party and then the Know-Nothing Party called themselves the Conservative Party in North Carolina.

<sup>2</sup> The Democratic Party assumed the name Confederate Party during the Civil War in North Carolina.



to anger political forces allied with the Ku Klux Klan. Holden was in Washington, D.C., at the time of his removal from office. He was offered diplomatic positions in Peru and Argentina, but declined them, hoping to return to journalism. Later that year he assumed the editorship of the Washington *Daily Chronicle*. He let it be known that he wanted to return to North Carolina, and in March 1873 he was named postmaster of Raleigh, where he served until 1881. From that period, he avoided politics and became known as one of North Carolina's finest historians and lecturers, using his time to write for newspapers in Raleigh and Charlotte, compose poetry, and engage in church activities. For what good it did, the North Carolina State Senate unanimously pardoned him in 2011.

A few years after I began to collect covers illustrating the Civil War in North Carolina, I became aware that envelopes, printed so that sheriffs of North Carolina counties could return gubernatorial election results to Raleigh for the 1864 election, were on the market, usually in auctions. To my mind, they met the

definition of semi-official envelopes, and I began to try to collect as many as came onto the market. After nearly fifty years of watching for them, however, I accumulated only seven.

An envelope from Alleghany County appears in Figure 3. The form envelope is signed by the sheriff of Alleghany County, Jesse Ransom Bledsoe (Figure 4), and bears a manuscript postmark of Elk Creek of August 27, 1864. Elk Creek is in neighboring Ashe County. The stamp, a five-cent Richmond printing CSA number 7, appears to have been added to the cover. For one thing, the postage rate had changed to ten cents on July 1, 1863; for another, the stamp is not tied to the cover by the manuscript double line cancellation. Jesse Bledsoe (1827 – 1895) was indeed recorded in Alleghany County as sheriff in the 1860 federal census. He did have close relatives in Ashe County in the 1860s, and he had lived there at other periods in his life.

Figure 5 on the next page shows the envelope from Chatham County. It bears the signature of R. B. Paschal. Richard Bray Paschal (1820 – 1870, Figure 6), spent his life in Chatham



◀ **Figure 3.** 1864 election return envelope from Alleghany County, signed by Sheriff J. R. Bledsoe. It was posted at the Elk Creek post office, in neighboring Ashe County, on August 27, 1864.

**Figure 4.** ▶ Sheriff Jesse Ransom Bledsoe (1827-1895), who signed the Figure 3 election returns envelope. He was recorded in the 1860 federal census as sheriff of Alleghany County. He had close relatives in Ashe County in the 1860s and lived there at other periods in his life.



County. He was listed in the 1860 federal census as sheriff of Chatham County, living in Goldston. A black Type 3 Pittsboro circular datestamp with no readable date is on the reverse.

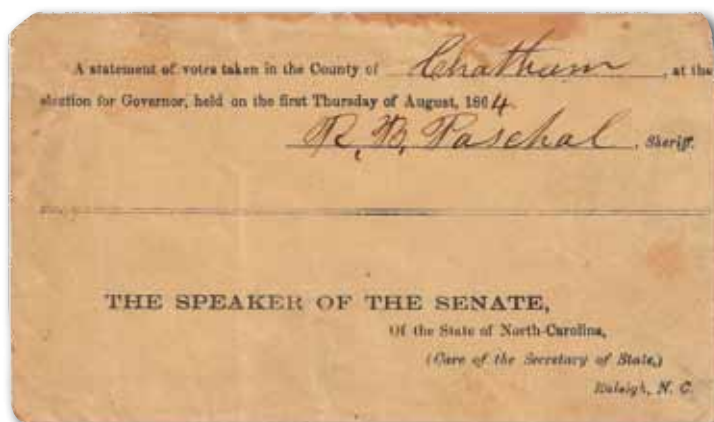
The envelope from Franklin County is shown in Figure 7. On the reverse is an unexceptional CSA number 11 stamp, canceled by a black Type 1 Louisburg circular datestamp. The envelope was signed by Elijah Albert Gupton (1823 – 1904), listed as the sheriff of Franklin County in both the 1860 and 1870 censuses, and his signature appears on correspondence in 1868 with the Freedman's Bureau in New York City.

Guilford County returns were made in the envelope shown in Figure 8, on which a CSA number 11 stamp is canceled by a red Type 5 circular datestamp of Greensboro, with the hyphen between N and C. Caleb Augustus Boone (1820-1897, Figure 9) signed the transmittal envelope as C. A. Boon. He was born in Gibsonville and is listed in the 1860 census as sheriff. By 1870 he was a prosperous farmer in Rock Creek Township of Guilford County.

The returns from Hertford County (Figure 10) presumably were sent from the county seat, Winton. While manuscript post-

**Figure 5. ▶**

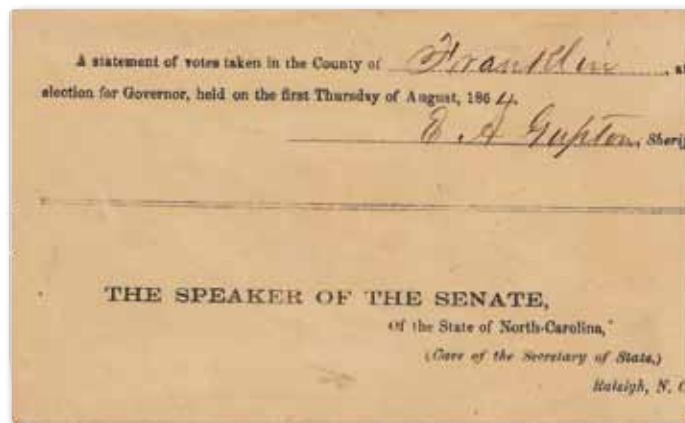
1864 election return envelope from Chatham County, signed by Sheriff R. B. Paschal. A black Type 3 Pittsboro circular datestamp with no readable date is on the reverse.



◀ **Figure 6.** Sheriff Richard Bray Paschal (1820-1870), who signed the Figure 5 election returns envelope. He was listed in the 1860 and 1870 federal census as sheriff of Franklin County, and his signature appears on correspondence in 1868 with the Freedman's Bureau in New York City.

**Figure 7. ▶**

1864 election return envelope from Franklin County, signed by Sheriff Elijah Albert Gupton. On the reverse is an unexceptional CSA number 11 stamp, canceled by a black Type 1 Louisburg circular datestamp.



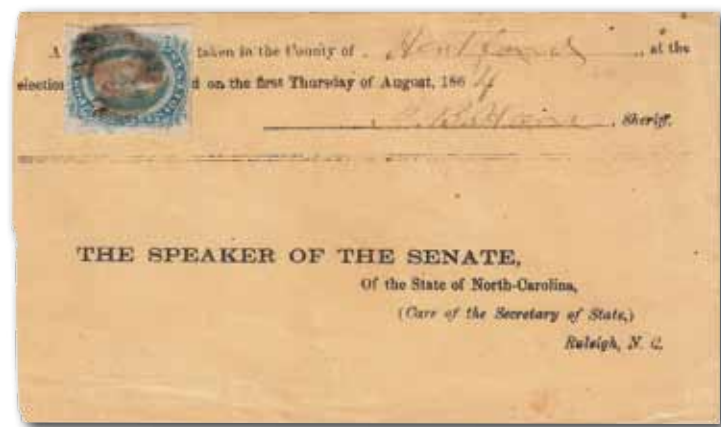
marks from Winton during the Civil War period are known, this cover bears only a cork smudge to cancel the postage stamp, a CSA number 11. The signature is that of Jackson Boone Hare (1819 – 1899, Figure 10), a well-to-do 1860 planter in Hertford County. In 1865, he also owned a grist mill in Winton Township. The 1870 census still gives the same occupation for him, but with considerably less wealth.

No such problem exists in the identification of the sheriff of Orange County in 1864. On the next page H. B. Guthrie signed the return envelope in Figure 11 as sheriff. The envelope bears a CSA number 12 stamp canceled with a blue Type 5 Hillsborough circular datestamp. Hugh Blair Guthrie (1814 – 1881) was born in Chatham County and died in Chapel Hill. In 1853 he bought the Eagle Hotel, a famous 19th century hostelry in



◀ **Figure 8.** 1864 election return envelope from Guilford County, signed by Sheriff C. A. Boone, who signed his name "C.A. Boon" on the printed envelope. A CSA number 11 stamp is canceled by a red Type 5 circular datestamp of Greensboro, with the hyphen between N and C.

**Figure 9. ▶** Sheriff Caleb Augustus Boone (1820-1897), who signed the Figure 8 election returns envelope. He was born in Gibsonville (Guilford County) and was listed in the 1860 census as sheriff. By 1870 he was a prosperous farmer in Rock Creek Township, Guilford County.

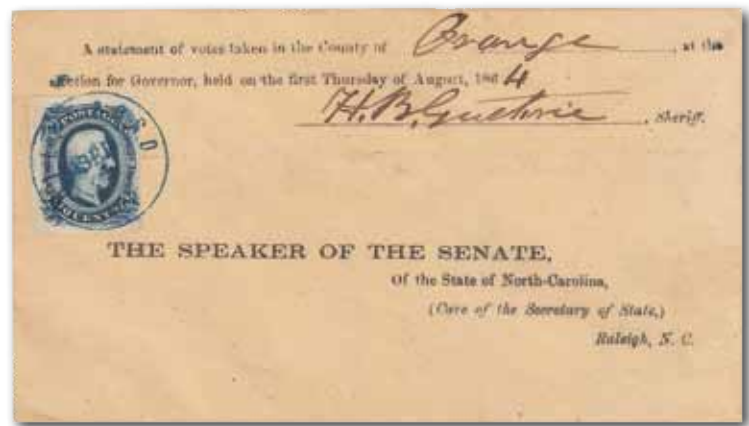


◀ **Figure 10.** 1864 election return envelope from Hertford County, signed by Sheriff J. B. Hare, presumably sent from Winton, the county seat. While manuscript postmarks from Winton during the Civil War period are known, this cover bears only a cork smudge to kill the postage stamp, CSA number 11.

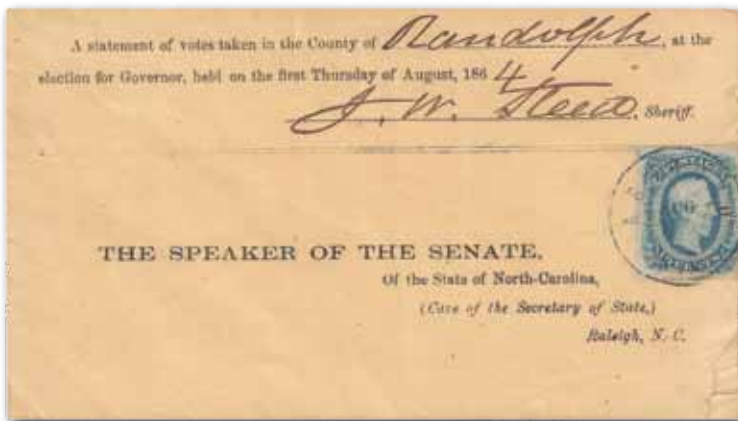


**Figure 11. ►**

1864 election return envelope from Orange County, signed by Sheriff Hugh Blair Guthrie. The envelope bears a CSA number 12 stamp canceled with a blue Type 5 Hillsboro circular datestamp. Guthrie was mayor of Chapel Hill from 1869 to 1872, town commissioner, magistrate of police, postmaster, and member of the General Assembly. He also served two short terms as sheriff of Orange County.



**◀ Figure 12.** 1864 election return envelope from Randolph County, signed by Sheriff J. W. Steed. It bears a CSA number 12 stamp, canceled by a blue Type 3 circular datestamp of Asheboro. Sheriff Steed was a lifetime resident of Randolph County listing his occupation as a farmer.



Chapel Hill, from its original owner, Nancy Hilliard, and was a prosperous businessman by the 1860 census. In the 1870 census, he was a farmer near Chapel Hill in much reduced circumstances. Since the University of North Carolina was shuttered from 1868 until 1875, there was no reason for large numbers of guests to visit Chapel Hill. So there was time for him to be mayor of Chapel Hill from 1869 to 1872, town commissioner, magistrate of police, postmaster, and member of the General Assembly, and to serve two short terms as sheriff of Orange County. He made no secret of being a Union man during the Civil War, and even changed the name of the Eagle Hotel to the Union Hotel. His tombstone in Old Chapel Hill Cemetery bears the inscription, "Born a Whig, Died a Republican."

The envelope from Randolph County is illustrated in Figure 12 bearing a CSA number 12 stamp, canceled by a blue Type 3 circular date stamp of Ashboro. This transmittal was signed by J. W. Steed, sheriff. Joseph Warren Steed (1815 – 1873) spent all his life in Randolph County. He was listed in the 1860 census as the sheriff of Randolph County, but the 1870 census lists his occupation as farmer and his means much reduced.

The election was a runaway for the popular Governor Vance. On August 24, the Raleigh *Confederate* reported that only eleven counties had not reported to the Speaker of the Senate of

North Carolina. Of these, no Confederate elections had been held in the Union-controlled counties of Carteret, Tyrrell, and Washington; Mitchell, Transylvania, and York had voted with the counties from which they had been formed. That left gaps in official returns from Cherokee, Chowan, Gates, Haywood, and Macon Counties, although the *Confederate* published unofficial returns from Cherokee, Haywood, and Macon. The story, as usual, was copied by out-of-state newspapers. The story in the Richmond *Examiner* was copied by *The New-York Times*, which printed the official vote as 52,833 for Vance and 20,174 for Holden. Vance therefore received 72.4% of the vote, by this reckoning. The *Confederate* remarked that Vance had received the largest vote for governor ever cast in the state until then.

After I had accumulated most of these covers, I learned that they had been stolen from the North Carolina State Archives during the time the North Carolina Postal History Society was preparing *Post Offices and Postmasters of North Carolina* in the 1990s. When I disposed of the great bulk of my Civil War collection of North Carolina covers in the winter of 2017, I did not allow these covers to be listed for auction. Instead, I returned them to the State Archives; it was the only ethical thing to do. They are once again available to anyone who wishes to examine them.

## Acknowledgments:

I have made heavy use of the biographies of Zebulon B. Vance and William W. Holden in William S. Powell's *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, Chapel Hill: 1979-1996.

There are numerous archivists and librarians in Wilson Library in Chapel Hill; the State Archives in Raleigh; and municipal and county libraries and museums in Asheboro, Chapel Hill, Greensboro, Hillsboro, Louisburg, and Winton, who searched mightily for images of their sheriffs in 1864 but who came up empty-handed; I must thank them for the time, effort, and courtesy. My own hunt through online genealogical and other websites to identify these sheriffs' descendants, whom I then contacted about the existence of photographic images, was useless. I thank Robert B. Anthony, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, for identifying the sheriff of Hertford

County in 1864; I had not been able to read the signature on the envelope. ■

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"North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update." [www.ncpostalhistory.com/project\\_postmark\\_catalog.aspx](http://www.ncpostalhistory.com/project_postmark_catalog.aspx) (Accessed May 14, 2018).  
Powell, William S. Editor. *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*. 6 Vols. (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1979-96).

## Mystery Covers from Fall 2017 Issue - Update

The cover to the right is a folded, stampless cover dated 24 October, 1854, and is addressed to Miss Fanny P. Clark in Lowell, Massachusetts. The letter was posted in the Williamston, Martin County, post office during William B. Lanier's term from February 1853 to June 1858.

Correct answers were received from Brian Greene and George Slaton.



The cover to the left is a folded, stampless cover dated "21 8 Month Aug" 1847, and is addressed to Lindsay & Plackeston in Philadelphia. The letter was posted in the Anderson's Store post office, Caswell County, during the 40-year term of postmaster Quintin Anderson. He also provided his postmaster free frank on the cover.

Correct answers were received from Brian Greene, Darrell Ertzberger, George Slaton, and Richard Wines

## A Twice-forwarded Letter

by Richard F. Winter



Today we expect that letters will be promptly forwarded with no additional expense. However, before 1867, additional postage was always charged to redirect letters from an address to which a letter was sent to a new address, unless the letter had been missent as a fault of the post office. If a letter was sent to one address and the recipient was not there, but had left instructions to redirect the letter to a new location, the letter was to be treated as a new letter with additional postage added from that location to the new location. The postmaster at the location of forwarding was to summarize the accrued fees on the letter. An unpaid letter forwarded one or more times might have quite large postage charged at destination depending on the distances the letter traveled. An example of multiple forwarding of an unpaid letter sent via North Carolina will be discussed. On unpaid letters this process resulted in numerous manuscript instructions and ratings written on the covers themselves, sometimes making it difficult to interpret.

Figures 1a and 1b illustrate an unpaid folded letter that was posted in St. Augustine, Florida Territory, on 21 January 1844.



Figures 1a, 1b. ▲►

Front and reverse of 21 January 1844 folded letter sent unpaid from St. Augustine, Florida Territory to Edenton (Chowan County) with 25 cents postage due. Letter re-mailed on 2 February to Wilmington with 43¾ cents postage due. Wilmington forwarding agent George W. Davis received letter and re-mailed it on 8 February to "Mary Anna" (Marianna), Florida Territory, with 68¾ cents postage due.

It was addressed to Thomas Wynns in Edenton (Chowan County). Unlike many letters that originated in Florida Territory it did not travel to North Carolina by sea, but travelled exclusively on land postal routes. At the St. Augustine post office the letter received in the lower left corner a 30.5 mm black, circular datestamp, "St. AUGUSTINE/FL.T.," dated 21 January, and a manuscript "25" in the upper right corner, signifying the postage due of 25 cents in Edenton. The distance by post road to Edenton was approximately 600 miles requiring 25 cents postage for a single-rate letter (one sheet of paper).

The Edenton postmaster must have had instructions to forward Thomas Wynns' letters to Wilmington (New Hanover County) if he was not there when a letter arrived. The postmaster marked in pen "fwd 18¾" under the 25 cents postage due in the upper right corner and wrote the total postage due at Wilmington to be 43¾ cents. The distance to Wilmington was about 185 miles requiring the additional 18¾ cents. The letter was re-mailed to Wilmington on 2 February as shown by the 31 mm black, circular datestamp of Edenton (Type 4) in the upper left corner.

Apparently instructions were in place for letters addressed to Thomas Wynn to be accepted by the well-known Wilmington forwarding agent, George W. Davis, who wrote on the lower reverse side, "Recd & forwd by You obt Servant/ G.W. Davis." The letter was prepared again to be re-directed. The Wilmington postmaster struck a very faint 30.5 mm red orange, circular datestamp in the lower left corner dated 8 February. This postmark appears in the lower half of the St. Augustine postmark. He wrote the new destination as "Charleston SC" in error. By this time the front of the cover was getting too cluttered with crossed out addresses and rate calculations to be marked properly for this second





re-mailing. The new address for Thomas Wynns was written on the upper part of the reverse side, "Thos Wynns Esqr/ Mary Anna/Florida," and the new total postage due marked in manuscript, 68¾ cents. The distance from Wilmington to Marianna, Florida Territory, was about 520 miles, requiring an additional 25 cents postage. Another strike of the Wilmington postmark in red orange was struck on the reverse on the left side to avoid further confusion.

So, we have a letter forwarded twice, and returned back to Florida Territory, but at a different location from where the letter originated. The total postage due of 68¾ cents in today's money would be about \$23.20. Postage was not inexpensive! In 1845 the multi-tiered system of distances and sheets of paper in a letter to determine the postage was replaced by a two-tiered distance system and the weight of letter to determine the cost rather than the sheets of paper in the letter.

The addressee of this letter was Thomas Wynns. This was not the Thomas Wynns (1760-1825), congressman, state legislator and major general of state troops in North Carolina, who had no children. This Thomas Wynns (ca 1792-1851) was from another part of the North Carolina family that had strong ties to the sea. Thomas, the second eldest of four children, was raised in Bermuda and later was a long time U.S. Consul to the British Turks and Caicos Islands, from 1817 to 1835, living on Turks Island. He had family in Marianna, Florida Territory, and Edenton, which ties to the movement of this cover. A photocopy of another cover in the North Carolina Postal History Society cover records that shows a 28 January 1843 letter to Thomas Wynns on the Turks Islands, posted at Edenton (Chowan County) care of the Norfolk, Virginia, forwarding agent Messrs Soutter & Bell. Apparently, Wynns moved around

a good deal after his years as the U.S. Consul, living in Bermuda, Jamaica, and then died in Brooklyn, New York. Another indication is a 1 October 1833 letter from the U.S. Consul at Turks Island, Thomas Wynns, to President Andrew Jackson in the Andrew Jackson papers at the Library of Congress. With this letter he sent a box containing specimens of tropical fruits to the President from Turks Island by way of a ship directly to New York, where the Collector of Customs was to forward the box to Washington, D.C. ■

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"Thomas Wynns to Andrew Jackson, October 1, 1833" <https://www.loc.gov/item/maj013297/> (accessed 5 June 2018).

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## New Marking



Envelope to the left was mailed from Shufordsville (Buncombe County) on 16 October 1861 to Charleston, South Carolina. The Type 1 circular datestamp of the 1850s was still in use but with a manuscript date. This is the first reported use of this postmark during the Confederate period.

Shown to the right is the same cover with the upper left corner exposed to show a turned cover use of the cover from Statesburg, South Carolina, on 2 June 1862, paid with a CSA No. 6 stamp. The new 10-cent rate went into effect the day before, but apparently this cover was allowed to go through underpaid.



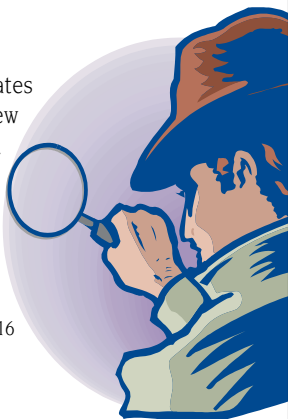
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## NORTH CAROLINA POSTAL HISTORIAN



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## North Carolina Postmark Catalog Update

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